

THE

Capitol

NEWS FROM
HOLLYWOOD

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52

JULY, 1946

Kenton, Duke and Herman Pace Cally Band Migration

The Duke of Ellington will find himself a busy man when he hits Hollywood in early July.

First on his date pad is a week at the Million Dollar Theater, as well as a number of sessions at which he and his orchestra will record several dozen selections for Capitol's new transcription company.

With Russ Procope replacing the veteran Toby Hardwick in the first alto chair, Duke returns here after an absence of more than a year. Procope is remembered for his superb musicianship in the old Fletcher Henderson and John Kirby bands.

A night in concert at the Shrine Auditorium Aug. 7 will prove another memorable engagement for Duke this summer. It also is likely that a motion picture assignment will be contracted. Two studios have made overtures.

One-nighters as well as theaters up north are in store before the Ellington organization returns to Culver City—following Stan Kenton—for a four-week run at the Meadowbrook starting Aug. 8. Another new personnel change surrounds the bass spot, where Oscar Pettiford and Serious Myers have replaced Junior Raglin.

Band then returns east, in September, following completion of the run at Meadowbrook.

And Here's Another; Byrne Eyes California

Bobby Byrne is angling with California ballroom men for a fall engagement. He's under contract to Columbia Pictures for a series of musical shorts featuring his tram and ork and wants a location to go with the celluloid stints.

Nelson a Single

Skip Nelson, former Casa Loma singer, opened at the Troc in H'wood on June 20 as a single.



HOME AGAIN . . . Stan Kenton and June Christy are back in California and ready for their July 9 opening at the Meadowbrook in Culver City. It was just five years ago that Stan organized his group; its debut was made, without fanfare, at a little ballroom in Balboa Beach, Calif.

The parade of name bands to California will hit its all-time high peak in July with Stan Kenton and Duke Ellington pacing a field that includes such renowned groups as those led by Woody Herman, Les Brown, Louie Prima, Jimmy Dorsey and others.

Kenton, fresh from triumphs registered on a six-month tour of the east and south, is back from a short vacation in Mexico City and will open at the Meadowbrook in Culver City on July 9, Gene Howard and June Christy on tap, as always, as vocalists.

Vido Musso, Eddie Safranski, Kai Winding, Buddy Childers, Ray Wetzel, Bob Ahern, Chico Alvarez, Boots Mussulli—all these sidemen and many more will greet thousands of their California followers at Meadowbrook. The band also is inked for a week at the Million Dollar Theater in August before going back east.

Kenton celebrates the fifth birthday anniversary of his band this month, and while coasting will etch a number of records and transcriptions for Capitol. A full album of previously-unavailable Kenton classics also is scheduled for release shortly by Capitol.

Latest news regarding other topflight orchestras soon to play Southern California will be found in this issue of The Capitol.

Big Schedule Set For Lionel Hampton

Lionel Hampton's band, due in Los Angeles next month, will play the Million Dollar and Lincoln Theaters here and also make a movie short, or two, for Metro. In addition, Hamp and his blasters will tour the entire west coast, probably returning to L.A. in September for a repeat engagement at the Trianon Ballroom.

Sinatra (Different One) For Six Light Operas

Ray Sinatra, a cousin of the crooner, has been signed to direct the music for a forthcoming series of six light operas to be presented in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, starting July 8, with "Two Hearts in Three-Quarter Time."

THE **Capitol**
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Associate Editor, Eve Stanley

fan fare

A Grateful G. I.

I want to thank you for sending me The Capitol all the time I have been in the service. I think it has been wonderful for what you have done for the servicemen.

During my return to the States I went on a furlough to Los Angeles. I went to the Capitol Publications office but did not go inside. I wanted to see what it was like after hearing about it from buddies overseas.

T/5 RAY ELLIS

F. A. S. Fort Sill, Okla.

"Third-Rate Rag"

I hear about paper shortages. I read about them. And still I run into your third-rate rag in record shops everywhere I go. Is there no other outlet for your efforts? Never . . . never, I say, have I read such a bum sheet as The Capitol.

RUDY MACK

Croydon Hotel, Chicago

Britisher Eyes Wax

I read the information contained in The Capitol with great interest and I look forward eagerly to next month's copy. I hope you'll soon find some way of releasing Capitol records in England.

ARTHUR RAY HART

13, Apiary Gate,

N. Derby, Derbyshire, Eng.

Missing: One Guy

I have failed to find anything in your magazine regarding Guy Lombardo despite my diligent and persevering search for same. His peachy band has been playing the Capitol Theater, too, so I don't understand it. I'll be expecting a big article on him and his family in the next issue and I don't expect you to disappoint me.

MINNIE KATZ

The Bronx, N. Y. C.

sunset and vine

THE BOOM is on among young dance bands. Everyone and his brother are forming them and hardly a one is doing anything at the box-office. Digging back into the pre-war days of 1939, it is recalled that a similar situation existed. And only one of 10 starters is still around.

The big question mark is Tex Beneke's outfit, with a reported payroll in excess of \$6,000 a week. So far the group has fared fairly well, but what happens after he has made the theater and ballroom circuit completely? There are just so many band-buyers who can meet his price. Nor is Beneke boffo enough to compete with the Dorseys, Hermans and Kentons as turnstile champions.

It's a question worth pondering, for within the next six-month period the die will be cast and promoters will either recognize the plethora of new bands as solid contenders or else they won't buy 'em at any price.

July 22 Bowl Event Deserves Support

THE GREATEST names of show business are preparing elaborate routines for the 20,000 persons expected to attend the Westview Hospital benefit on July 22 at the Hollywood Bowl. Al Jarvis is behind the affair, and it already appears that an all-time high mark for entertainment and box-office receipts will be clocked. Latch the details on Page 3 — and order your ducats early!

Business Sags Throughout Nation

NITERY AND ballroom business is 'way off throughout the nation. And although there has been little publicity, unemployment figures are rising steadily throughout the land, topped by an estimated three million ex-servicemen who are not working. Things will have to improve if the music business is to remain normal. Right now, the more than slight recession has plenty of people worried, but most of them feel that September will find a change for the better.

Tommy Dorsey Band Surprises

HOLLYWOOD HEAVE-HO: Hundreds planed and trained to Manhattan and back for the Louis-Conn go, with many of the luminaries bragging they were forced to dig as high as \$350 for ringside ducats. . . . Eddie Vinson, famed "Mister Cleanhead" of blues-shouting renown, pulling into Filmtown to play a week at the Million Dollar Theater in the troupe featuring the Ink Spots and has been regaling the Central Avenue mob with his barrelhouse alto and lyrics—for free. Seems that Eddie heads for the avenue nightly after his regular chores, as a maestro, are over. . . . That whacky airjock whose zoot chatter fills the airwaves nightly around the midnight hour via KLAC is Nick Thoms, the "Fractious Canuck" who is single-handedly trying to build Henri Nosco into Maj. Glenn Miller's successor. . . . Earl Wilson and his wife gandering the village. With tape measures in their mitts, no doubt. . . . Tommy Dorsey's current band is in vivid contrast to the band he fronted in California a year ago. At that time he had five girl singers, two or three males, a stand filled with fiddles and assorted acrobats. Today he has no strings and one singer—Stuart Foster, who handles every vocal tirelessly. . . . Edith Gwynn of the Hollywood Reporter gushingly testifies to the high speed of the TWA Constellation, asserting she knows a bandleader who shipped two rabbits from Hollywood to N.Y. on the plane, and when it landed at LaGuardia Field there were . . . two rabbits.

Herman Ork Hits L. A. July 9

Woody Herman's long-awaited return to California, after 18 months in the east, is imminent. His jumping, screaming Herd will move into the Million Dollar Theater in L.A. on July 9 for a week, then take over the bandstand of Casino Gardens (owned by Tommy Dorsey) in nearby Ocean Park on July 23. The Casino Gardens date will run four weeks.

Chubby Jackson, bass-playing "character" who has long desired a band of his own, cut out from Woody in Chicago in June, and will not come to California. Stan Kenton's Eddie Safran-ski, offered the spot, declined it graciously.

Lynne Stevens (see photo above) is making the trip west, to the delight of the wolves at the beach where the band will be performing nightly. Also in the WH troupe are the Four Flames with a new girl, Blossom Deary, replacing Lucille Linwood. Flip Phillips, Bill Harris and Ralph Burns also will arrive, although young Burns, rated one of the best arrangers around, has declared he will leave Herman following the California commitments to study in orchestration on a more "serious" plane.

Woody's wife and daughter, Ingrid, are expected to accompany him here also. Eventually, they plan to live in California permanently.

Jo Stafford For Hollywood Bowl

Jo Stafford flies to California to be the vocal star of the annual George Gershwin memorial concert in Hollywood Bowl the night of July 13.

Paul Whiteman will conduct the orchestra. Jo returns to N.Y. shortly after the event to continue her NBC programs for Chesterfield.

Pally Awaits Les Brown To Follow Carle Combo

Les Brown and his band go into the Palladium here in late July, replacing the current Frankie Carle. Doris Day and "Indian Jack" Haskell, along with sax-playing Butch Stone, will comprise the Brown vocal staff. It will mark Brown's fourth Pally engagement in as many years.



HEADING WEST . . . Along with the Woody Herman ork which arrives in Los Angeles in early July will come Lynne Stevens, making her first west coast appearance as singing star of the herd. She once chirped lyrics for Georgie Auld. Woody and his aggregation have a stiff schedule lined up, with a long run at Casino Gardens following their one-week stint at Sherrill Corwin's Million Dollar Theater in L.A. The band hasn't played the California territory in nearly two years. It will have plenty of competition here, however.

Jazz in Hollywood Bowl Will Help Build Big New Hospital

POPULAR music will pave the way for the construction of a new million-dollar Los Angeles hospital when Al Jarvis presents his "Make Believe Ballroom" in the Hollywood Bowl on July 22 with a dazzling array of stars scheduled for personal appearances. The proposed Westview Hospital will have 300 beds, will be operated strictly as a non-profit venture and will be guided by 85 prominent civic leaders who have formed an inter-racial advisory board.

Hope and Crosby Promised

As The Capitol went to press Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Tommy Dorsey, Stan Kenton and others had promised to appear in the famous Bowl to help the cause, and Jarvis announced that "at least five other famous orchestras, 10 noted singers and no telling how many film stars will definitely take part."

The "Make Believe Ballroom" in person at the Bowl will be similar to the sell-out show which Jarvis produced last spring at the Shrine Auditorium. Tickets to the July 22 event are scaled from \$1.20 to \$5. Cal Kuhl is assisting Jarvis with the production end of things. Station KLAC, which features the recorded "Make Believe Ballroom" daily, is co-sponsoring the program in conjunction with Jarvis and the Los Angeles Daily News.

Hospital Desperately Needed

The hospital will solve a serious problem now existing in Los Angeles. Negro

doctors are not allowed to treat their patients in any of the L.A. hospitals now existing. The L.A. General Hospital does admit Negroes, but it is critically overcrowded. Westview will be open to human beings of every race, creed and color in the finest American tradition. Paul R. Williams already has designed the structure, which will be located on an entire city block tract at 54th and Main streets.

Jarvis pledged himself to raise more than \$500,000 of the \$1,000,000 necessary for the building to be completed. The Bowl concert is his first move toward obtaining that money. Every nickel taken in at the box-office will be donated to the project, Jarvis said. Virtually every performer in Hollywood is assisting him to insure a sell-out audience.

Jarvis, one of the most prominent disc jocks in the nation, airs his "Can You Tie That?" program every Sunday at high noon in addition to his daily "Make Believe" sessions. Big name singers and leaders review the latest records, also on KLAC.

hollywood beat

CALIFORNIA BALLROOMS are getting desperate when it comes to signing name bands for future engagements. Competition among the danceries is more spirited than it has ever been before on the west coast with the Avodon, the Trianon, the Aragon, the Casino Gardens, the Meadowbrook and the Palladium all bidding against each other for the orks that draw big boxoffice grosses.

Significant, then, is the pacting of Orrin Tucker to open Oct. 9 and Charlie Spivak to open Dec. 26 at the Palladium. Ordinarily, the Pally's management doesn't book music that far in advance. The five other rivals also are following suit to insure potent attractions well into the future.

Lucky Millinder brings his rockin' crew to L.A. to play the Lincoln and Million Dollar Theaters in August and September. Lucius also will do one-nighters hereabouts.

Trumpeter Leonard Sues woodshedding a new band. He's been music chief of Eddie Cantor's airshow for several seasons. He goes into Ciro's July 3.

Sinatra is back at MGM for work in "It Happened in Brooklyn" in which Kathryn Grayson shares top billing.

Erskine Hawkins follows Millinder's trail by moving into the Lincoln and Million Dollar Theaters here Oct. 8 and Nov. 5. Sherrill Corwin, who operates both houses, admits he's becoming more "band conscious" every day.

Hot Lips Busse, now at the Avodon Ballroom in L.A., moves into Jerry Jones' Rainbo Rendezu in Salt Lake City July 29, thence to Omaha for vaude engagement starting Aug. 9.

Gene Krupa finished scenes and recording chores for RKO's "Beat the Band." His band rates a nice spot in the flicker. But editing hasn't been started yet.

Sterling Young, vet coast maestro, took his new crew north for Portland run.



SAM'S CHOICE . . . Just 21, and another Dallas lass who made good, Mynell Allen is Sam Donahue's choice for the oriole spot in Donahue's new civilian band. A click at New York's Roseland Ballroom with Sam's crew, Miss Allen's first record, "Take Five," hit the stalls last month. Eventually, she hopes to land in a Broadway show.

California night clubs suffering critical recession of biz. Patronage is the weakest since before Pearl Harbor.

Jimmy Dorsey due in town any day to start work in "The Fabulous Dorseys" film. Brother Tommy is running a national contest to find a girl singer.

Ross Russell concluded his series of jazz lectures under auspices of People's Educational Center. They were the first ever conducted in Southern Cally.

Al Ortale launched his "Record of the Month" club, a national enterprise with headquarters in H'wood.

L.A. Lincoln Theater Using Weekly Bands

Los Angeles' Lincoln Theater, recently acquired by Sherrill Corwin, will unshutter on July 8 with a stage show featuring the Ink Spots. Top name orchestras will follow every week, thus allowing maestros to play two weeks in L.A. instead of a single week as in the past.

Corwin made news last month when he announced that his Orpheum Theater—for more than a decade the most famous vaudeville house west of Denver—would revert to a straight flicker policy and that the Million Dollar Theater in downtown L.A., instead, would present flesh entertainment.

In its first few weeks of operation with vaude, the Million Dollar has enjoyed good business. It has a slightly larger capacity than the Orpheum.

Future bookings of bands for both the Lincoln and the Million Dollar will be found through the pages of this issue of The Capitol.

Red Nichols North On Theater Tour

Loring (Red) Nichols and the 1946 edition of his Pennies will open in Oakland July 2 on the first leg of a four-week theater tour, the first that the band has accepted in several years.

Red said that Herbie Haymer would rejoin his six-man group, on tenor, and that Dottie O'Brien is set as featured girl singer. Also new is Jo-Jo Huffman on clarinet, who for several seasons was a highly rated sideman with Will Bradley's late aggregation in the east.

Garber and Kassel Set For the Aragon

Jan Garber and Art Kassel will play the Aragon Ballroom in nearby Ocean Park, Calif., this fall. Jan opens Sept. 9 and Kassel will follow. Lawrence Welk, meanwhile, stays on the remainder of the summer with his self-styled "champagne music."

Disc whirlers Gene (KFWB-KHJ) Norman and Hunter (KFVD) Hancock back from vacations, Norman from Mexico City and Hancock from San Antonio.

Rugolo: The Next 'Name' Arranger Nor Does He Pose as Genius!

IN THIS frenetic post-war world of music, the personality and behavior of Pete Rugolo has plenty of musicians and fans puzzled. Pete is one of the greatest arrangers and composers in the nation. But he walks, talks and acts like an ordinary human being.

Rugolo, at 30, hasn't enjoyed any personal publicity. That's because he was in khaki, for three long years; out of the business and forced to stand by until V-J Day.

Refuses to Be Eccentric

But Pete is back in action now on the civilian front, as Stan Kenton's chief arranger. Pete looks like the guy next door. He refuses to wear a black goatee or a red beard. He considers himself anything but a genius.

He doesn't brag about his B. A. degree from San Francisco State, or his M. A. degree from Mills College, or his two years of study with the noted French composer Darius Milhaud. Pete is a quiet, humble, conscientious little man who seeks nothing for himself but proficiency. Ralph Burns of the Woody Herman band—also one of the topflight arrangers of this era—considers Pete the finest. So do a legion of musicians who are flipping their wigs these nights as they latch Kenton's band on the air, in ballrooms and on wax.

"Arrangement Should Grow"

Rugolo is the man who clefled the "Bass Concerto" which Eddie Safranski performs so spectacularly. "Cocktails For Two," "Sorrento" (featuring Vido Musso's big tenor pipe), "Lover," "World on a String," "Peg o' My Heart," "I Cover the Waterfront," "Can't Help Lovin' That Man," "Lover Man" and four or five untitled originals have all hyped the Kenton book tremendously since Pete received his h.d. from the army. Some of these will appear later this year on records.

"I like progressive jazz," Pete says, "and I like to feel that my stuff is progressive. An arrangement should grow—it should develop into something. Too many of the so-called 'modern' arrangements the big bands are playing today have no continuity; they are written only for effect, and they don't build to a climax. There's too much of this stuff being heard today, I'm afraid. But I guess it's natural for youngsters to attempt copying Ellington, Strayhorn,

Eddie Sauter and Ralph Burns. They, of course, are the greatest. But for every one of them there are 50 incompetents."

Has Played for 20 Years

Pete Rugolo began studying the piano at 10, and at 14 was arranging, in a crude way, for a high school band in his home town of Santa Rosa, Calif. "I learned all the fundamentals, and theories, at the two colleges, and Mr. Milhaud taught me an infinite number of

sional vocal. Then came the army, and for three years Rugolo was stationed at Fort Scott and San Pedro. Shortly before he became a private he met Kenton. Stan took a couple of his arrangements, played them, and told Pete he would hold open a job for him until he was free of military service.

"And so," Pete declares, "the day I returned to civilian life I contacted Stan. He was as enthused as I. That's the story. Dull, huh?"

Duke Ellington His Idol

Pete is a nut for Stravinsky, Debussy, Ravel, Milhaud and Shostakovich. "All the moderns," he confesses. Ellington unquestionably is his idol in the lusty field of American jazz.

Stan rates Pete the finest arranger around, and Kenton himself ain't bad.

Here, then, is Pete's first publicity. He didn't ask for it and was sincerely flustered when interviewed. But the guys in Kenton's band demanded that he receive recognition. So did a large group of his enthusiastic followers, a group that is doubling and trebling in size and enthusiasm and praise for Rugolo with every passing week.

Pete is one of the best. But his attitude is strictly earthy. It's refreshing to find a progressive, leftist artist who refuses to behave like an eccentric and who declines a "genius" overcoat. Alongside giants like Ellington, Strayhorn, Sauter and Burns, Pete Rugolo fits just right.



MERELY MORTAL . . . Pete Rugolo has no delusions of grandeur. But for all of his humility and exceptional talent, as Stan Kenton's chief arranger, many musicians rate him alongside Ellington, Strayhorn and Sauter for sheer brilliant and imaginative manuscript. His story is told in adjoining columns.

—Wendel Chilton Photo.

things. If I had to learn arranging all over again, however, I'd skip college and formal teaching and go with a dance band. I think it would save a lot of time and prove far more effective in the long run."

Pete, whose parents were musical but unprofessional, obtained his first pro experience as a member of Leon Mojica's California orchestra. In 1942-43 he worked in the Johnny Richards orchestra in which Andy Russell thumped the skins and crooned an occa-

Peggy Lee Ankles Tommy Riggs Show

Because of other commitments, including a show of her own starting in the fall, Peggy Lee quit the Tommy Riggs CBS program suddenly last month. Anita Ellis took the spot. Miss Lee will do frequent guest shots throughout the summer.

Eddie Heywood Back For Trocadero Run

Eddie Heywood and his band returned to H'wood on June 10 for an indefinite engagement at the Trocadero. The band was on the west coast for 10 months last season and recently has been playing New York's West 52nd Street.

Crosby Cuts Out

Bing Crosby left Hollywood in June to go into the Pacific Northwest "on location" for a motion picture Paramount is making. He's expected back in late July.

THE PIED PIPERS
with PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

'REMEMBER ME' 'WALK IT OFF'

OUT TODAY

Capitol RECORD

264-50c plus tax



SMOKE SELLERS . . . Martin Block, singing star Jo Stafford and Lloyd Shaffer, ork leader, go into a huddle when they find it necessary to cut 45 seconds from a broadcast. All are heard on the Chesterfield NBC show from New York. Jo's newest Capitol record features Nat (King) Cole at the piano and marks a radical change in the type of accompaniment usually associated with her pretty pipes. She sings in Hollywood Bowl July 13.

'Amazing Man of Music' in Sock Hollywood Engagement

THE SPRIGHTLY band which Bennett Lester (Benny) Carter has been leading at the Hollywood Swing Club the past month may not shape up as the best he has ever conducted, but it's good enough to be attracting widespread attention despite the wealth of competition currently holding forth in the Los Angeles area.

Carter, whose versatility is a legend among musicians throughout the world, has several outstanding sidemen. Among them are Bumps Myers and Hal Clark, on tenors; Sonny White, piano; Ira (brother of Oscar) Pettiford and Walter Williams, trumpets; Jimmy Cannady, guitar, and Candy Ross and Al Grey, trombones.

Ross frequently lays aside his 'bone to take over the mike as Benny's featured male vocalist. Fem vocals are handled by the promising young Lucy Elliott.

Closes on July 7

With a few personnel changes, Benny's 1946 aggregation might well be classed alongside Ellington's, Basie's and

Hampton's groups from the standpoint of musicianship. He's been doing excellent biz at the Swing Club despite the atmosphere in which he plays, and KMPC airs his music nightly at 11:05.

The band holds forth at the Swing until July 7, then will probably move back east for the remainder of the summer and the fall. Carter's brilliant alto and trumpet solos, his distinctive arrangements and his personable, unobtrusive manner of "fronting" his big crew are assets few of the top maestri of today possess.

Holdover For Donahue

Sam Donahue, who recently organized his civilian band after three years in the navy, drew a holdover at the Roseland Ballroom in N.Y. in late June. He fronts his crew with his tenor and trumpet.

New Crosby Band Hits; No Dixie

Bob Crosby's orchestra, now touring up and down the west coast following its long runs at the Meadowbrook and the Pally in Los Angeles, is beginning to win the acclaim of musicians. Organized only last November, Crosby's present group is built around the arrangements of Tommy Todd, a brilliant young pianist and scorer who leads his own little jazz trio—on nights when he isn't working with Crosby—for personal kicks.

Crosby and his band have again been renewed for a 13-week by Ford. They air every Wednesday via CBS for the motor sponsor.

Highly touted sidemen flying the Crosby banner include, in addition to Todd and Crosby's manager, Gil Rodin, Murray McEachern, who doubles alto and trombone; Ralph Collier, drums; Charlie Cathcart, trumpet; Davey Pell, tenor; Gus Bivona, clarinet, and Benny Benson, trombone.

The band in no way is reminiscent of the old 1935-42 Crosby Dixieland band. Current outfit foregoes the old New Orleans jazz style that made it "the best Dixieland band in the land" in favor of what the hotrock brigade these days term as "progressive jazz."

'Play It Pretty' Prima Soon Due at Casino

Loui Prima and his "play it pretty for the people" tagline and band are set to play the Casino Gardens this summer. Engagement is the first for the New Orleans trumpeter, on the west coast, in five years. Band is slated to play the usual west coast one-nighter trail before returning east in September.

Ciro's, Maxie's Dark

Ciro's and Slapsy Maxie's niteries in Hollywood went dark in June. Giro's shuttered because of a violation of California liquor laws while the ops of Maxie's declared they would redecorate their spot and reopen it "sometime in July."

MCA Nabs Kid Ory

Veteran trombonist Edward (Kid) Ory, who has been performing in San Francisco with his New Orleans jazz orchestra, last month signed a booking agreement with MCA.

Big Plans for Skitch Sketched

Grabs Top NBC Summer Show

By EVE STANLEY

YOUNG PIANIST - BAND leader Skitch Henderson, who always looks like he has all the time in the world to spare even when he's most rushed, obligingly dropped by Capitol's office when I asked him to tell me about his summer radio shows and his orchestra plans for next season. Back in Hollywood after a whirlwind series of eastern p.a.'s with Voice Frank Sinatra as Sinatra's musical director, Skitch is all set for a hectic summer of real work.

By the time this reaches print, you'll be hearing Skitch on his Sunday Old Gold half-hour over NBC (6:30 p.m. Pacific time), an all-music showcase for his rhythmic piano arrangements, with a string quartet, Jan Savitt's band and other fancy trimmings added. As soon as that show's 13-week period is over, he will begin his fall program with Bing Crosby. No matter who wins Bing's nod as sponsor on his next contract, his radio plans for the 1946-47 season will include Skitch, who is already definitely set in the deal.

Also Prepping Own Band

Another job Skitch will concentrate on this summer is building his band library, in which he has already accumulated a number of fine original arrangements. Accent will be on classical themes generally recognized as lending themselves to piano adaptation.

Skitch's piano naturally will establish his new band's style. A decided factor in the outfit will be a section of French horns, for classical effect, with every care being taken to retain dance values. Come autumn, the band will be ready for a strenuous schedule, and negotiations are now being completed for an important date in a major New York hotel spot.

Born in Great Britain

In answer to the numerous queries we get about how-come the "Skitch" monicker, that was picked up in Chicago when he first started to play piano professionally, in Louis Adrian's pit band at the Chicago Theater. English-born Skitch was christened Lyle Cedric Henderson. His early education was obtained in Switzerland and London, where he



SKITCH HENDERSON

He hopes to "retain dance values."

had the best musical training from the age of five. After he came to America, he was identified with famed orchestras for several years, traveled extensively as soloist-arranger, and became an American citizen when he entered our Air Force at the outbreak of war. After serving as an instructor, he became a B-29 pilot, returning to civilian life at the end of 1945.

Skitch is tall, handsome and blond. His voice is quiet, but very definite when he talks about music, which he believes is the world language. He never belittles any musical style, feels that people get a lot out of any interpretation well performed. For his personal barometer of reactions and musical preferences of the younger public, he depends a lot on comments written in by the men who flew with him during the war—and from the sample letters I've seen, he can't go far wrong following that policy.

BILLY BUTTERFIELD
and His Orchestra
'WHATTA YA GONNA DO'
'BILLY THE KID'

Capitol RECORD
265-50c plus tax

COOTIE WILLIAMS
and His Orchestra
'When My Baby Left Me'
Vocal - Eddie Vinson
'Echoes of Harlem'

Capitol RECORD
50c plus tax
266

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Jay Johnson Fan Club.

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% BOBBY SHERWOOD ORCHESTRA
AVENUE BALL ROOM
9TH AND SPRING ST
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

July Newsworthies

JAY JOHNSON, barely 18, received his first "fan club" note last month while singing with Bobby Sherwood's band. A New Jersey boy, Jay counted some 400 signatures on the card. He's now on tour with the Sherwood ork in the Middlewest.

JACK SMITH and KMPC's jockey chef, Bill Leyden, hoke it up on Leyden's morning wax stanza. Jack also airs nightly over CBS. He's known in the trade as "Laughing Boy."

RACQUET-ERS who celebrated a brief June vacation in sunny California before their July 9 Meadowbrook opening included Stan Kenton, Shelly Manne, Eddie Safranski and Bob Ahern, who form the S. K. rhythm section.

WPS MYERS is the man who blows the full tenor pipe in Benny Carter's band, to close at the Swing Club in Hollywood. rated one of the greatest by musicians.

JO ANNE RYAN is the sparrow who dominates vocal choruses with the Alvino Rey band. Her latest record is "Sepulveda." The band is at the Hotel Sherman.

Ritter's Versatility Obvious In His First Capitol Album

By CLIFF STONE

TEX RITTER is as different and interesting a cowboy artist as there is in the field today, for he is capable of delivering not only a heart ballad but also a true rendition of traditional western music. It is possible because Tex has spent much of his time following herds of cattle across dusty plains. His first Capitol album delivered the first novel approach of western and cowboy songs that children could absorb, understand and enjoy. One in particular, "The Rooster Son," has become a virtual household necessity wherever youngsters gather. This month his latest album, beamed directly at the older folks, is available and contains eight priceless western songs that every lover of true western music will want in his collection.

Tex's unique deliverance of "San Antonio Rose," one of the biggest numbers of all times, will certainly start it along the "come-back" trail. Be sure to listen closely to "Blood on the Saddle." This is authentic western folk lore, as is the "Boll Weevil" song. Tex takes us on a ride down "The Chisholm Trail." His rendition of "Rye Whiskey" has been charming audiences for years, making it a "must" at every personal appearance. "Try Me One More Time" brings Ritter back to the broken-heart coral. "Bad Brahma Bull" and "Rounded Up in Glory" complete the collection.

Notes on Wally Fowler

Wally Fowler's Oak Ridge Quartet is fast becoming the big drawing card for Nashville's WSM "Grand Ol' Op'ry" every Saturday night. Their rendition of spiritual and hill country songs is distinctive, to say the least, and on this transcontinental radio program, it is nothing for them to come back and do another chorus because the audience refuses to let them leave the stage. This, in itself, is phenomenal. We'll all hear a great deal more of Wally Fowler's Oak Ridge Quartet.

Autry Picks Up 15 Minutes

Gene Autry is back on the West Coast with news that attendance records were broken all over the east where



READIES QUARTET discs . . . Wally Fowler, hillbilly artist whose broadcasts over Nashville's WSM are among the most popular aired by the station, soon will debut his "Oak Ridge Quartet" on Capitol records. Wally airs Saturday nights over NBC on the "Grand Ol' Op'ry" session.

he appeared with the Arena Managers' World Championship Rodeo. His first appearance in Los Angeles in many years, was at the Pan-Pacific Auditorium with all stock for the rodeo shipped in from Texas. Gene is rather a busy guy, inasmuch as he is shooting his first picture since his release from the Army Air Forces, for Republic, and his radio program, "Melody Ranch," which you hear via CBS every Sunday afternoon, increased its time from 15 to 30 minutes on June 16th.

CHATTER: Good reports are coming in from Wesley Tuttle, who is touring at present down Texas way. . . Merle Travis and Texann are busy waxing vocal duets for the new Capitol transcription department, soon to be released nationally.

WESLEY TUTTLE
and His TEXAS STARS

Capitol RECORD 267



**'THO' I TRIED
(I CAN'T FORGET YOU)
'WHEN YOU CRY
(YOU CRY ALONE)**

50c plus tax

Platter Spinner

JOE FRANZ, after four years in the army, is back in the swing seat at WCBF in Baltimore with his own "Swing Time" morning program and various spot shows on the Mutual-affiliated outlet. He's at his best while whirling biscuits, and credits much of his showmanship to his military duties. While in khaki, Joe emceed army programs and made personal appearances with Maj. Wayne King's band, and Bob Eberly often was the featured song-seller. Franz is steadily building a wide audience throughout the state of Maryland. And he likes civilian clothes better.



H'wood Bowl Opening With 'Carmen'

Once again Hollywood Bowl time. On July 9 the silver jubilee season of "Symphonies Under the Stars" will open with a presentation of the opera "Carmen" with Leopold Stokowski, the Bowl's musical director, conducting the orchestra.

This new season, with numerous guest soloists skedded for personal appearances in the big natural amphitheater will end on Sept. 1.

Paul Whiteman will conduct the annual Gershwin memorial concert, to be staged this year at the Bowl July 13.

Sixty compositions were received from various sections of the country in the Bowl Association's first annual Gershwin Memorial award for a composition as indigenous to America as was the music of George Gershwin.

The submitted compositions now are being examined by the board of judges: Leopold Stokowski, musical director of the Hollywood Bowl Symphony, honorary chairman; Whiteman; Arthur Rodzinski, Deems Taylor, Olin Downson, Ferde Grofe, who made the original orchestration for "Rhapsody in Blue" and Robert Russell Bennett.

Among other events on schedule for the coming summer concerts will be performances of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Stokowski will conduct the Tuesday and Sunday programs.

You Meet Them All on Vine Street! It Happens Only In Hollywood

By GEORGE H. PLAGENS

IT IS not true that Hollywood musicians do not come out in the daytime. They do. Any morning you may see as many as three or four right on the corner of Sunset and Vine. And how do you know they are musicians? That is a good question.

Opening Phase

By "Hollywood musician" I do not mean the "long-hair" violinist or bassoonist who plays with a symphony orchestra or Viennese quartet, but the kind who plays on radio shows, for dances and recording sessions, who may be found passing the time of day with his union brothers at the corner soda fountain or in front of the bowling alley or picking his teeth in front of the Brown Derby. You never find your "long-hair" musician in such plebeian surroundings. He will be at the conservatory practicing his cello part for "Die Luftbahnabtgessellschaftleid" from Schultze's "Sonata No. 4," or sitting in a warm bath reading or putting a three-masted schooner inside a bottle.

Idle Hands

In spite of the unkind references which might be made to "schooners" and "bottles" in connection with Hollywood or garden variety of musician, you won't catch him frittering away his time in any such nonsense. If he can't put in his free moments playing his kind of music, he talks about it or listens to it or reads about it or just looks at girls. In this way he relaxes while improving himself. This preoccupation with what is, after all, his bread and butter, tends to give the musician a look of serious concentration. And, for all his gay clothes and gypsy ways, he is no clown. He does not act the fool in public, guffawing loudly or pounding the back. He does not "truck" across Vine Street against the light, shouting, "Hya, man! Gimme some skin!" and play a hot chorus on his flageolet, while waving his union card at passers-by to prove he is a paid-up member.

Two and Two Makes Four, They Tell Me

In the first place the genuine Hollywood musician does not carry his instru-



they spot me immediately for what I am—an imposter, a hanger-on, a paid hireling of the lunatic fringe of musical journalism, a self-appointed critic, a rejected suitor of Euterpe, a bum.

Night on Vine Street

I have dealt here only with the more casual activities of the Hollywood musician's spare time. What he does during working hours is his business. How he manages to work at night and be up and about most of the following day is a trade secret I have not been permitted to learn. When I stay up until three in the morning, I may get up and to the office but I am not in real operating condition. For the life of me I couldn't converse brightly or listen politely or maybe even look at girls in the morning if I had been up playing half the night for five nights running. The Hollywood musician is noted for his pallor. This is partly the result of his nocturnal working habits. Though he may be up and beating his gums at ten in the A.M., he is off the streets by one in the afternoon and so does not get any glorious California sunlight. At dark he is up and about again, on the job, and by the time the trolls are out he is industriously blowing his top in some night spot. After hours, which may be any time between three and six A.M., he is jamming with a group of tireless brethren or stuffing himself with food and drink or listening raptly to a hot band or all three in rotation.

Fearless Journalism

This sort of life adds to the characteristic musician's "look." Late hours, irregular feeding and no home life result in that baggy-eyed appearance and give the musician's countenance a poetic cast, as if he were living in a dream-world. But don't let that ecstatic look fool you. He is awake and thinking and ready to match wits or pennies with any recognized member of the musical fraternity. If you are not a Hollywood musician he may ignore you. After several years in Hollywood I have come to know a few musicians—the trouble is, they know ME!

Rocks in My Head

It is not difficult to recognize the musician in his Hollywood habitat. He knows the other musicians and they know him. And if you think he doesn't know who YOU are, you are deceiving yourself. I have met many established practitioners of "le Jazz hot" through the editor of "Capitol," and despite my studied efforts to talk or at least look like I know a "riff" from a cadenza,





VET WITH REY . . . Rocky Colucio served in Artie Shaw's Navy band in the South Pacific, then with Sam Donahue's Navy band in Great Britain, before receiving his h.d. and joining Alvino Rey's civvie outfit. Rocky thumps the Steinway and sings an occasional vocal. He's good at both.

movie music

MORE THAN a year ago, The Capitol was first to interview and praise the extraordinary talents of 16-year-old Andre Previn, a Berlin-born virtuoso of the piano who plays scintillating jazz as well as classical numbers. Since then Andre has made great progress, with his composing and arranging skills as well as a soloist.

In recent months he has been on staff at MGM. Now he is busy recording a difficult and important piano sequence for Frank Sinatra in a film titled "It Happened in Brooklyn." Johnny Green, Jose Iturbi, Lennie Hayton and other Metro bigshots consider him the most promising youngster in music. His progress will bear close checking.

Tito Guizar sings a brace of ditties in "Thrill of Brazil" for Columbia.

Republic has Jimmy McHugh and Harold Adamson cleffing tunes for "Calendar Girl," to be released next fall.

Paramount is putting Victor Young's baton to work for "Suddenly It's Spring." That's the title of a movie, not the song.

David Rose plenty active these days moving into new home, scoring films for 20th-Fox, handling his own CBS airshow every Wednesday and occasionally plattering some of his better efforts.

The great composer Delius finally gets Hollywood's nod. Seems that Herbert Stothart is scoring and directing music for "The Yearling" which spots a batch of Fred Delius' most memorable works.

A 90-piece symphony recorded the soundtrack for Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" under baton of Dimitri Tiomkin, who cleffed the score.



RISEING FAST . . . Ginnie Powell has come a long way since she was 12, in Chicago, chanting vocals with a little all-girl band. Recently she has been starring with Harry James, but it was definite, as this issue went to press, that she would remain in California to sing with Boyd Raeburn at Club Morocco, starting June 27.

Band Box Nabs Ella Mae Morse

Ella Mae Morse opened with a blast of publicity on June 17 as the singing star at Billy Gray's Band Box niteroy on Fairfax avenue in Los Angeles.

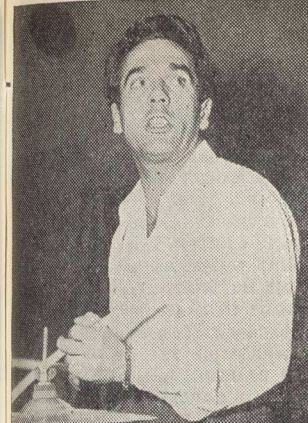
Miss Morse, whose discing, for Capitol, of "The House of Blue Lights" and "Hey, Mister Postman" is ringing up cash registers in record shops throughout the U.S., is making her first L.A. club appearance in nearly four years—since she chirped with Freddie Slack's band at the old Casa Manana. Paul Neighbors, Sid Marvin, Dave Barry, Lou Marcus and Georgie Tibbles are other Band Box attractions.

Paul Weston Back From Long Vacation

Paul Weston, Capitol's musical director and noted radio conductor, swung back into Hollywood in late June after a month in the east on his first vacation in four years. Weston divided his time between New York and Martha's Vineyard.

Miguelito Returns

Miguelito Valdes, Afro-Cuban singer, returns to L.A. this month for a July 8 opening at the Club Brazil.



SUBSIDIZED? . . . Gene Krupa revealed in Hollywood last month a petroleum manufacturer had offered him a "fabulous" deal to play a minimum of 30 one-nighters, starting next fall, under auspices of the petroleum company. It would be a promotional venture and Gene would receive a nightly guarantee without having to worry about going into percentage. Gene and his band just finished a film at RKO.

Raeburn to The Morocco

Boyd Raeburn signed a contract, just as this issue of The Capitol began rolling on the press, which would find his controversial orchestra opening at the Morocco Club on Hollywood's Vine street on June 27. Although his outfit has been making Hollywood its headquarters for some seven or eight months, the Morocco engagement will mark its first location job in the Los Angeles area.

Raeburn, a saxophonist who for many years limited his appearances to the Chicago area, tossed aside his threeter "society" band three years ago to form a strict jazz aggregation in a "modern" groove. Boyd credits his current style to Eddie Finckel, a talented New York arranger, who was the first to properly notate Raeburn's ideas on manuscript paper. Many of Finckel's brilliant arrangements still spark Raeburn's library. George Handy also has contributed some.

For the Morocco engagement, Raeburn will have to round up virtually an entirely new personnel. The group which he brought to the west coast a year ago (paced by Johnny Bothwell's alto) for an engagement at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, has long since scattered.

radio riffs

BING CROSBY will sign with General Motors.

That's the latest "inside tip" regarding Bing's fall radio show. A dozen of America's mightiest sponsors have been driving him nuts with offers and it appears likely that Crosby—who will transcribe many of his shows so that he can work a month or two in advance of actual broadcasts—considers the GM deal preferable. Now on location in the Pacific Northwest, Bing is supposedly set to sign contracts with the auto maker's agency sometime in July. If it goes through the Groaner will be heard via ABC (Blue) net, which allows broadcasting of transcriptions.

Carl Hoff bagged the bandleading chore on Don Ameche's new summer program.

Jan Savitt's band, the pianist Skitch Henderson, Connie Haines and the Golden Gate Quartet began their new NBC show July 16 from Hollywood, a summer sub for "Meet Me at Parky's."

Martin Block of New York air renown moves to Encino (a Los Angeles suburb, in the Valley) next January to make this his permanent residence with his family.

Marty Lewis of Paramount radio department skedding blanket coverage of U.S. radio stations in promotion of "Blue Skies," starring Bing Crosby and some 20 Irving Berlin songs, due for release soon. Special soundtracks are being shipped leading jockies.

Dinah Shore and Frank Sinatra may appear regularly together on the same air program starting in the fall.

Platter Spinners



PATSY KENT and Fred Hall hold down the "Juke Box Jamboree" every morning over WNOE in New Orleans, and comprise one of the few "jockey teams" in the nation. They cleverly fake other voices to add variety to their gab, writing their own scripts and making sufficient ad libbed remarks to retain a spontaneous effect. Fred has been in show biz 20 years; Miss Kent is proud of her full decade in radio. Their unusual pooling of talents, as a result, has insured them of a potent midnight to 2 a.m. audience in "the city that care forgot," as Crescent City natives like to describe it.

Blazes at Penthouse

Ulysses Livingston and the Hollywood Four Blazes are the new attractions at the Penthouse on Western avenue in L.A. Livingston is one of the better guitarists on the west coast.

Tony Martin's Hooper (around six points) still moving upward despite imbecilic commercials. Tony uses a different girl chirp every Saturday as his guest, via CBS.

Peggy Lee soon to go east for Chesterfield broadcasts and theater engagements.

Frank (KFWB) Bull back at the mike after a month's trek east.

Woody Herman airs his Friday ABC "Wildroot" show from Hollywood starting in early July.

Tommy Dorsey took over Sunday Fred Allen stanza for summer hiatus.

Nick Thoms is new airjock at KLAC, Hollywood.

Cugat Bounces In

Xavier Cugat and his bandsmen opened at the Meadowbrook June 13 and will play weekends until Stan Kenton's entrance on July 9. The Meadowbrook until recently was better known as the Casa Manana.

Jococo Offers 88'er

Kent Clarke is the new piano-playing attraction at the Jococo Club on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. He replaces D'Varga at the Baldwin.

SAM DONAHUE
AND HIS ORCHESTRA

'TAKE FIVE'
Vocal: Mynell Allen

'DINAH'
*50¢ plus tax

OUT TODAY

Capitol RECORD
CAP. 260

JO STAFFORD

'CINDY'
with NAT (KING) COLE - Piano
Roy Linn - Trumpet
Herbie Haymer - Tenor Saxophone
Orchestra under the direction of PAUL WESTON

'I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN'
From the Republic Picture
"Earl Carroll's Sketch Book"
With PAUL WESTON and His Orchestra

OUT TODAY

Capitol RECORD
CAP. 259 50¢ plus tax



JAZZ VETS Bobby Haggart, left, and Frank Trumbauer check the score on a Capitol wax session in New York, where both are noted studio musicians. Haggart for seven years was bassist and arranger for the old Crosby Dixieland band; Tram blew his C-Melody sax and led his own band for two decades, and until recently was an official of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Today they both are topflight free-lancers, and they don't come any better.

Bobby Sherwood Cuts Out to Play Midwest Locations

ON THE HEELS of his boff engagement at the new Avodon Ballroom in Los Angeles, Bobby Sherwood took his band into the Pacific Northwest and following engagements there will open Cedar Point in Sandusky July 12. Sherwood's stock jumped double its former level during its Avodon run here. His outfit, comprised chiefly of youngsters, purveys all types of music with distinction and unique voicing of such instruments as bassoon and French Horn lends his arrangements the progressive "sound" that critics today are raving about.

Youngstown, McKeesport and the

Terrace room in Newark will follow for Bobby's band.

While in L. A., Bobby waxed his theme, "Theme For a Dream," as well as several pop tunes soon to be released and an original descriptive instrumental, "Bedlam," which smacks of Shostakovich.

PEGGY LEE

with DAVE BARBOUR and His Orchestra

OUT TODAY

'Linger in My Arms a Little Longer, Baby'
'Baby You Can Count on Me'

CAP. 263 50c plus tax



band stands

- STAN KENTON:** Opening at Meadowbrook on July 9 for four weeks
XAVIER CUGAT: Meadowbrook until July 9
LOUIS PRIMA: Casino Gardens
BENNY CARTER: Swing Club
HENRY BUSSE: Avodon Ballroom
EDDIE HEYWOOD: Trocadero
WOODY HERMAN: Million Dollar Theater July 8-15; opening at Casino Gardens July 23
RAY BAUDUC: Susie Q
FRANKIE CARLE: The Palladium
ZUTTY SINGLETON: Swanee Inn
BOYD RAEBURN: Morocco Club
ERROLL GARNER: Susie Q
LAWRENCE WELK: Aragon Ballroom
SLIM GAILLARD: Billy Berg's
ART TATUM: Billy Berg's
RUSS MORGAN: Biltmore Hotel
LEO WATSON: Billy Berg's
FREDDY MARTIN: Hotel Ambassador
CEELLE BURKE: Club Alabam
TINY HILL: Trianon Ballroom
EDDIE LeBARON: Mocambo
PEE-WEE HUNT: Palladium
FREDDIE FISHER: Radio Room
MIKE RILEY: Riley's Madhouse
RED CALLENDER: Rite Spot
EDDY OLIVER: Del Mar Beach Club
FOUR BLAZES: The Penthouse
RUSSELL JACQUET: Cotton Club
DICK WINSLOW: Bar of Music
PETE PONTRELLI: Figueroa Ballroom
DON ROLAND: Casablanca
DEACON DUNN: Club Donroy
ABBEY BROWNE: Hob & Nob Club
TOMMY TODD TRIO: Morocco Mondays
PAUL WHITEMAN: Hollywood Bowl on July 13 only

Jerry, Billy Touring East

The combination of Jerry Colonna and Billy Butterfield's new band is busy breaking in on the road after a June 14 start in Providence, R. I. Colonna, noted comic of the Bob Hope show and a one-time jazz trombone player, is teaming with the new Butterfield orchestra on a six-week tour which finds them playing Ocean Beach, N. J., the week of July 13-20.

Jacquet Hangs on At the Cotton Club

Still riding high with a five-man band at the Cotton Club on the Sunset Strip is Russell Jacquet, trumpet-blowing brother of Illinois Jacquet. Claude and Cliff Trenier, singing twins, are added attractions.

ST. LOUIS WOMAN

A NEW BROADWAY HIT!

THE ORIGINAL CAST!



"... the best Negro musical in many seasons, and the best new musical of this season up to this late date..."
JOHN CHAPMAN
in New York Daily News

"... all very fine ... one of the best ... a lot of fine and beautifully appropriate songs ... Pearl Bailey is superb!"
WOLCOTT GIBBS in The New Yorker

"... 'St. Louis Woman' delighted the first nighters and had them blistering their palms applauding..."
ROBERT COLEMAN
in New York Daily Mirror

Pick of the Show's Highspots!
11 TERRIFIC SONGS
10 GREAT SIDES
Complete lyrics of all 11 songs in a booklet with each album.

NOW . . . Capitol brings you AN AISLE SEAT to this brilliant musical show acclaimed by critics . . . a command performance in your own home any time you want it. You'll thrill to the laughter and the heartbreak of this great music by Harold Arlen and Capitol's own Johnny Mercer. Magnificently interpreted by the original cast, superbly recorded, here is an album you'll cherish.

CAP. ALBUM CE-28 . . . \$4.25 plus taxes



Sunset and Vine

FIRST

WITH THE HITS FROM HOLLYWOOD



A Long Way From Home



THIS FACETIOUS POSE struck by Johnny Mercer, Jerry Colonna and Bob Hope points up the release of Bob's new album, "I Never Left Home." But it's strictly for the photographer. All three make their homes in California. Hope, moreover, is out on a strenuous tour with a big troupe of showmen (and Paramount starlets); Colonna

also is touring, in the east, with Billy Butterfield's new orchestra. Mercer, following suit, is in New York in connection with the hit show "St. Louis Woman" for which he—and partner Harold Arlen—clefled the music. California misses all three of 'em!

— Photo by Gene Lester